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*Seattle*

## Delay in cleanup draws EPA fine

Flawed efforts to keep pollutants from getting into groundwater near the Duwamish River have triggered a \$720,000 fine against current and past owners of a contaminated site of a former factory, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced yesterday.

The fine is the third for failures

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to follow toxic-cleanup plans on land on the 9200 block of East Marginal Way near Boeing Field.

The EPA has previously dinged the three companies for \$479,500 for cleanup problems, according to the agency. A chemical-production plant once operated on the site, which is polluted with toluene, arsenic, copper and PCBs, according to the EPA.

The latest problems probably did not cause more contamination of groundwater near the Duwamish River, said Shawn Blocker, an EPA enforcement officer. But it signals further delays on a cleanup plan first agreed to in 1993 between the EPA, the current owner, Container Properties, and past owners Rhodia and Rhone-Poulenc, now part of the pesticide and agricultural products company Bayer CropScience, Blocker said.

A representative for Container Properties, Rhodia or the company managing the cleanup could not be reached for comment. A Bayer CropScience spokesman said he was unfamiliar with the issue and couldn't comment.